

WE SHALL NOT FORGET: KOREA 1950-1953

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I rise on this day to commemorate the end of the Korean War, an often overlooked, yet very important event in history. "Forgotten" is a term used too often about the Korean War; for veterans and their families, the war is very real, and something they can never forget.

Officially, the war was the first military effort of the United Nations, but American involvement was dominant throughout the conflict. Thousands of Americans were shipped off to that distant land, joining with other soldiers from other allied nations, to help defend the rights of strangers against a hostile and merciless invasion. Unfortunately, many who fought bravely to aid the Koreans lost their lives while waging the war.

Today, I want to pay homage to all who served in this war. The troops from the United States and the 20 other United Nations countries who provided aid to the South Koreans deserve our great acclaim every day, but even more so on this special anniversary. These great countries united to preserve the rights of South Korea, a small democracy threatened by the overwhelming power of the Communist government. South Korea did not have sufficient military resources to protect its interests. Fortunately, the United Nations member countries were unwilling to sit back and watch North Korea, with the aid of China and the Soviet Union, drive democracy from the continent of Asia.

On June 25, 1950, troops from Communist-ruled North Korea invaded South Korea, meeting little resistance to their attack. A few days later, on the morning of July 5th—still Independence Day in the United States, Private Kenny Shadrick of Skin Fork, WV, became the war's first American casualty. Kenny was the first, but many more West Virginians were destined to die in the conflict, in fact, more West Virginians were killed in combat during the three years of the Korean War than during the 10 years that we fought in Vietnam.

At the end of the Korean War, a U.S. casualty report confirmed 36,940 battle deaths. An additional 103,284 servicemembers were wounded in battle. More than 8,000 Americans are still missing in action and unaccounted. How can we possibly call one of the bloodiest wars in history a "forgotten war?" Are those who served in Korea "forgotten soldiers?"

Make no mistake, those who fought in Korea will never be forgotten. They serve as examples of true Americans, and the debt we owe to our Korean War veterans, like the veterans of all other wars, is immeasurable. Unfortunately, these soldiers, like the Vietnam veterans who followed, received no parade when they returned home. They quietly went back to the lives they left and blended into their communities, unsung heroes of a faraway war.

Six years ago, we dedicated the Korean War Memorial. This stirring tribute to the veterans of this war poignantly bears out the hardships of the conflict.

The Memorial depicts, with stainless steel statues, a squad of 19 soldiers on patrol. The ground on which they advance is reminiscent of the rugged Korean terrain that they encountered, and their wind-blown ponchos depict the treacherous weather that ensued throughout the war. Our soldiers landed in South Korea poorly equipped to face the icy temperatures of 30 degrees below zero, their weaponry outdated and inadequate. As a result of the extreme cold, many veterans still suffer today from cold-related injuries, including frostbite, cold sensitization, numbness, tingling and burning, circulatory problems, skin cancer, fungal infections, and arthritis. Furthermore, the psychological tolls of war have caused great hardship for many veterans.

As a background to the soldiers' statues at the Memorial, the images of 2,400 unnamed men and women stand etched into a granite wall, symbolizing the determination of the United States workforce and the millions of family members and friends who supported the efforts of those at war. Looking at the steadfast, resolute faces of these individuals invokes in the viewer a deep admiration and appreciation for their importance to the war effort.

Author James Brady, a veteran of the Korean War, spoke for all those who served in the war when he wrote, "We were all proudly putting our lives on the line for our country. But I would later come to realize that the Korean War was like the middle child in a family, falling between World War II and Vietnam. It became an overlooked war." Mr. BRADY conveys the sentiments of many of the veterans who served in this war and underscores our need to give these veterans the recognition they are long overdue.

Today, I salute the courage of those who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met. Through their selfless determination and valor in the battle, these men and women sent an important message to future generations. I thank our Korean War veterans; their bravery reminds us of the value we put on freedom, while their sacrifices remind us that, as it says at the Korean War Memorial, "Freedom is not free." We shall never forget.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred on October 14, 2000 in Billings, MT. Chris Lehman, 23, shot Roderick Pierson, 44, with a BB gun. Mr. Lehman later admitted to shooting Pierson because he was black. Mr. Pierson was shot while walking with his 6 year-old daughter.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

BURMESE MILITARY RAPES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the military junta in Burma must be judged not by what it says, but rather by what it does.

The recent editorial in the Washington Post on the rape of ethnic minority women and girls by Burmese military officials is heartbreaking and horrific. It is by no means a stretch to characterize the junta's mismanagement and oppression of the people of Burma as a "reign of terror."

I join my colleagues in both the Senate and House who have called for justice for these heinous crimes, and for continued pressure on the illegitimate regime in Burma to relinquish power to the sole legitimate representative of the people of Burma, the National League for Democracy. As the editorial rightly states "Burma's leaders cannot bring the criminals to justice because they are the criminals."

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the editorial "The Rape of Burma" be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 23, 2002]

THE RAPE OF BURMA

RECENT EVENTS have led some people to predict that one of the world's most repressive regimes may be growing a bit less so. The generals who rule, or misrule, the Southeast Asian nation of Burma, which they call Myanmar, released from house arrest the woman who should in fact be the nation's prime minister, Aung San Suu Kyi. They have allowed her to travel a bit, and they have released from unspeakable prisons a few of her supporters. Grounds for hope, you might think.

Then came release of a report, documented in horrifying detail, of how Burma's army uses rape as a weapon of war. The rapes take place as part of the junta's perpetual—and, outside Burma, little-noticed—war against ethnic nationalities, in this case in Shan state. The Shan Human Rights Foundation and Shan Women's Action Network documented 173 incidents involving 625 girls and women, some as young as five years old, taking place mostly between 1996 and 2001. Most of the rapes were perpetrated by officers, in front of their men, and with utmost brutality; one-quarter of the victims died.

What is telling is the response of the regime to the report. Rather than seeking to